

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 07100 291147Z

44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 L-03 H-02 SY-05 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 /033 W
----- 105463

R 291034Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8936

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 7100

FOLNG FROM CALCUTTA DTD 28 MAY.

QUOTE: CALCUTTA 1184

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, PFOR, IN

SUBJ: HARCOS/FLETCHER

1. CONSULAR OFFICER DURING USUAL VISIT TODAY, MAY 28, WAS ADVISED BY HARCOS AND FLETCHER THAT THEY INTENDED TO COMMENCE THE HUNGER STRIKE ON SUNDAY, JUNE 1. THEY REQUESTED HIM TO INFORM THEIR LAWYER OF THIS SO THAT NO MORE FOOD WOULD BE SENT TO THEM AFTER SATURDAY. THEY REQUESTED A GOOD SUPPLY OF SUGAR AND LEMON WHICH THEY WILL DRINK WITH TEA WHILE ON THEIR FAST.

2. HARCOS AND FLETCHER ARE NOT AWARE OF TODAY'S COURT HEARING WHICH HAS BEEN REPORTED SEPTTEL AND WILL NOT KNOW OF THIS UNTIL THEY SEE THEIR LAWYER ON SATURDAY.

3. CONOFF BELIEVES THAT HE COULD PERSUADE HARCOS AND FLETCHER TO DELAY THEIR HUNGER STRIKE A WEEK WITHOUT MAKING ANY PROMISES AT ALL ON THE BASIS OF A VERY CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WHICH HAS DEVELOPED BETWEEN THE CONSULAR OFFICER AND PRISONERS OVER THE PAST 9 MONTHS. HE WILL MAKE QUITE SURE THEY UNDERSTAND WE ARE NOT MAKING ANY PROMISES AND CANNOT SAY WE ANTICIPATE ANY CHANGE IN THE NEXT WEEK. ALL WE CAN ASSURE THEM IS THAT WE ARE CONTINUING OUR EFFORTS IN THEIR BEHALF.

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4. I THINK WE CAN DO THIS WITHOUT RAISING FALSE HOPES AND
SUBSEQUENT DISAPPOINTMENT TO MAKE THEM EVEN MORE DETERMINED THAT
HUNGER STRIKE IS THE ONLY WAY. UNLESS OBJECTIONS PERCEIVED, I
WILL ASK CONOFF TO TRY THIS ON NEXT VISIT (FRIDAY, MAY 30).
ROSSELOTT UNQUOTE
SCHNEIDER

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NNN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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